

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 RSR-01 EB-11 IGA-02

AGR-20 TRSE-00 CU-04 /174 W
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O R 141130Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 8460

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - AUGUST 14, 1973

GENERAL

1. ON THE EVE OF THE CESSATION OF U. S. COMBAT AIR SUPPORT THE GKR MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO FORTIFY POPULAR MORALE WHILE THE FANK TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A LULL IN ENEMY ACTIVITY AROUND PHNOM PENH TO EXPAND THE CAPITAL'S PERIMETER AND CLEAR A MAJOR SEGMENT OF ROUTE 1. TENSION AMONG GOVERNMENT LEADERS CONTINUED TO SPARK TALK OF IMMINENT RESIGNATIONS BUT THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT REMAINED INTACT AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. THERE WAS NO OVERALL CHANGE IN PROSPECTS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. IN HIS USUAL CONTRADICTORY MANNER, SIHANOUK CABLED A "PEACE PROPOSAL" TO SENATOR MANSFIELD AND THEN INFORMED AFP THAT A MEETING WITH THE SENATOR WOULD LEAD NOWHERE. MEANWHILE FUNK RADIO CALLED FOR A GENERAL UPRISING AGAINST THE GKR.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. WITH THE END OF U.S. BOMBING ONLY DAYS AWAY THE
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GKR OVER THE WEEKEND BEGAN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO BOLSTER POPULAR MORALE AND ITS OWN COURAGE TO FACE THE CHALLENGE WHICH MUST BE CONFRONTED AFTER AUGUST 15. IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIALS BOTH GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED DAILIES HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE KHMER ARE NOW CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO BE ALARMED BY THE END OF U.S. AIR SUPPORT. PRESIDENT LON NOL ADDRESSED

THE NATION OVER RADIO ON AUGUST 11 AND DECLARED THAT "WE HAVE NO REASON FOR WORRY". HE DENIED RUMORS THAT PHNOM PENH WOULD FALL OR THAT HE PLANS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND PREDICTED THAT THE REPUBLIC WILL WIN FURTHER VICTORIES OVER THE ENEMY AFTER AUGUST 15. INFORMATION MINISTER SUM CHHUM ECHOED MANY OF THESE SAME THEMES IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 13. HE ALSO APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO TELL THE TRUE STORY OF VC/NVA AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA AND GIVE JUSTICE TO THE KHMER CAUSE.

3. IN THE WAKE OF DISCOVERIES OF A NUMBER OF WEAPONS CACHES IN PHNOM PENH (PARA 24) THE OFFICIAL KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS HAS BEGUN ATTACKING LOCAL CHINESE RESIDENTS AS SUBVERSIVE AGENTS. TO THEIR HABITUAL CRIME OF ECONOMIC SUBVERSION HAS NOW BEEN ADDED THE CHARGE OF ARMED REVOLT. ONE PAPER ASSERTS THAT PAST TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN PHNOM PENH WERE ALL THE WORK OF CHINESE AND CALLS FOR THE CONFISCATION OF WEAPONS FROM ALL CHINESE IN THE CAPITAL. (COMMENT: OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT MANY OF THOSE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMS CACHES WERE KHMER. ATTACKS AGAINST THE CHINESE AND OTHER OUTSIDERS FREQUENTLY ACCOMPANY PERIODS OF RISING ANXIETY AND TENSION SUCH AS THE KHMER ARE NOW EXPERIENCING).

4. RUMORS OF AN IMMINENT CHANGE TO BE PRECIPITATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER IN TAM HAVE BEGUN TO CIRCULATE IN PHNOM PENH. ALTHOUGH THE LEADERSHIP TENSIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED IN TAM'S DISSATISFACTION REMAIN UNABATED, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAS INDEED DECIDED TO RESIGN.

5. NO PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION
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WAS MADE OVER THE PAST WEEK. SO FAR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 100 PERSONS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED, ACCORDING TO FANK SOURCES, AND THE MILITARY ARE AT PRESENT CONTINUING TO RELY UPON RECRUITMENT FOR PERSONNEL REPLACEMENTS. MEANWHILE STUDENTS OF THE FACULTIES OF

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USMISSION USUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 8460

LETTERS AND LAW ISSUED DECLARATIONS CONDEMNING THE TACTICS OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE IN ROUNDING UP DRAFTEES (KHMER REPORT 8/7/73) AND DECLARING THAIR REFUSAL TO SERVE "CORRUPT FASCIST LEADERS".

6. GENDARMERIE COMMANDER BG CHEA KIM ENG HAS BEEN RELIEVED, APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF THE EXCESSES OF HIS TROOPS IN PICKING UP CONSCRIPTS. THE NEW COMMANDER IS COL. HEM SAVETH.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. IN RESPONSE TO A SIHANOUK CHARGE OF INTERFERENCE IN CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS INDONESIA HAS DENIED THAT IT OFFERED TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THE KHMER CONFLICT AND CLARIFIED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK HAD MERELY SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING ITS GOOD OFFICES IF ASKED TO DO SO. THE GOI REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GKR SIX-POINT PEACE PROPOSAL.

8. AT A CEREMONY ON AUGUST 10, THE U.S. TURNED OVER THE FIRST TWO OF EIGHT C-123 AIRPLANES TO THE GKR. THE PLANES WILL BE USED TO HELP SUPPLY GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ENCLAVES CUT OFF FROM LAND TRANSPORT. CREWS AND MECHANICS FOR THE PLANES WERE TRAINED IN THAILAND BY U. S. TEAMS.
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GRUNK/FUNK

9. SIHANOUK CABLED SENATOR MANSFIELD ASKING HIM TO CONVEY A PEACE PROPOSAL TO THE U.S. CONGRESS. AFP, WHICH RECEIVED A COPY OF THE PRINCE'S MESSAGE, REPORTED THAT SIHANOUK'S CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN HONOR ARE A COMPLETE END TO BOMBING AND ALL OTHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA AND THEN A "COMPLETE AND DEFINITIVE END TO ALL AID TO THE SELF-STYLED KHMER REPUBLIC". IF THIS WERE DONE, THE

PRINCE CONTINUED, THE UNHAPPY PAST COULD BE FORGOTTEN AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH THE UNITED STATES. HIS FORCES, MOREOVER, WOULD ALLOW THE U.S. TO EVACUATE "THE PRINCIPAL COLLABORATORS OF THE LON NOL REGIME". SECOND RANKING COLLABORATORS " COULD BE GIVEN AN AMNESTY ".

10. SIHANOUK LATER CABLED AFP TO DENY THAT SENATOR MANSFIELD WOULD TRAVEL TO PEKING TO SEE HIM. THE EXILED PRINCE ADDED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD LEAD NOWHERE AS FAR AS SOLVING THE KHMER-AMERICAN PROBLEM AND THAT KISSINGER AND MANSFIELD KNOW THAT SIHANOUK, FUNK AND GRUNK REMAIN INFLEXIBLE. "IF ONE DAY KISSINGER COMES TO CHINA, NO MEMBER OF FUNK OR GRUNK WILL AGREE TO SEE HIM, EVEN IN SECRET", SIHANOUK'S CABLE NOTED.

11. SIHANOUK TOLD REUTERS THAT HE WOULD LEAVE PYONGYANG AUGUST 12 FOR PEKING (HE REPORTEDLY LEFT PYONGYANG FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION BY SPECIAL TRAIN AUGUST 14) AND WOULD LEAVE FOR THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AUGUST 17 AFTER A MEDICAL CHECKUP IN TIENTSIN. HE ADDED THAT HE WILL VISIT IRAQ AND OTHER ARAB STATES IN OCTOBER.

12. PENN NOUTH AND WIFE ARRIVED BACK IN PEKING AUGUST 12 ACCORDING TO PEKING RADIO IN KHMER.

13. CLANDESTINE VOICE OF FUNK CALLED FOR A GENERAL UPRISING (#)
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MEN AND
WOMEN, WORKERS, STUDENTS, YOUTHS, INTELLECTUALS, NATIONAL CAPITALISTS, TROOPS AND OFFICERS AND PATRIOTIC FOREIGN NATIONAL TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE CPNLAF. PHNOM PENH, RADIO FUNK SHRILLED, HAS NOW BECOME THE HOT BATTLEFIELD. AN AUGUST 9 BROADCAST ASSERTED THAT CPNLAF UNITS HAVE ALREADY ENTERED PHNOM PENH CITY (BUT DID NOT CLAIM THEIR TROOPS ARE FIGHTING IN THE CITY) AND URGED RESIDENTS TO UNITE WITH THE CPNLAF TO LIBERATE PHNOM PENH.

GRUNK/FUNK EXTERNAL

14. SIHANOUK INCREASED THE PRESSURE ON STATES MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH THE GKR AMID SIGNS OF WAFFLING FROM THE GKR'S OFFICIAL FRIENDS. A SIHANOUK TELEGRAM TO COUNTRIES MAINTAINING EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH

NOTED THAT "THE CPNLAF DECLARES IN ADVANCE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY HAPPEN TO FOREIGN RESIDENTS DURING THIS WAR NOW RAGING" AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY URGENTLY LEAVE. THE PRINCE ALSO ISSUED A GENERAL NOTICE TO COUNTRIES HAVING EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH THAT GRUNK WILL REFUSE RECONCILIATION OR DECLINE TO ESTABLISH AND RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES MAINTAINING EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH "UNTIL THE EVE OF THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THESE TRAITORS".

15. THE USSR, SINGAPORE AND POSSIBLY THAILAND APPEARED TO BE SLOWLY EDGING TOWARD SIHANOUK WHILE KEEPING THEIR TIES TO THE GKR. THE USSR NOW HAS A SECOND SECRETARY (PRESS) AS CHARGE IN PHNOM PENH AND SOVIET PRESS COMMENT IS WARNING TO THE INSURGENTS WHILE AVOIDING HEAD-ON CRITICISM OF LON NOL. SIHANOUK ACCORDING TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW HAS EMERGED FROM A NON-PERSON IN THE SOVIET PRESS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS BUT RUSSIAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 8460 (SEC 2 OF 3). (#)OMISSION IN PARA 12, LINE 2, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 8460

COMMENTARY AVOIDS THE QUESTION OF HOW HE FITS INTO THE
KHMER PICTURE. SINGAPORE'S LEE KUAN YEW WAS REPORTED AS
SAYING IN CANADA THAT "A GOVERNMENT OF CONCILIATION
IN CAMBODIA WITH DEPOSED PRINCE SIHANOUK AT ITS HEAD
AND FAVORING A NEUTRAL POLICY COULD STABILIZE THE
SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY". AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NOTES
THAT SEVERAL RECENT HINTS SUGGEST THE THAI, WHO HAVE
NO LOVE FOR SIHANOUK, MAY BE TRYING TO SIGNAL THE
DEPOSED PRINCE THAT THEY HAVE NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS
AGAINST HIM OR CAMBODIA SHOULD HE RETURN TO POWER.

ECONOMIC

16. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO SHIP THE FIRST
PURCHASE OF 5,000 M/T OF RICE FROM THAILAND. LOADING

IN BANGKOK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 15. A CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED FOR A SECOND LOT OF 5,000 M/T (BROKENS) AND EFFORTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO LOCATE SHIPPING FOR THIS RICE.

17. ON AUGUST 13 THE USG AND THE GKR CONCLUDED A PL480 AGREEMENT FOR 35,000 M/T OF RICE WITH A DOLLAR VALUE OF \$10.8 MILLION. THE RICE IS EXPECTED TO BE LOADED IN THE U.S. DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AND FIRST ARRIVALS IN CAMBODIA SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER.

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18. STOCKS OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH NOW TOTAL APPROXIMATELY ONE AND A HALF MONTHS SUPPLY. ALMOST ALL OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED RICE IN BATTAMBANG HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH. THE REMAINING BATTAMBANG SURPLUS RICE IS IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE MERCHANTS. TRANSPORT OF ADDITIONAL RICE TO PHNOM PENH WILL DEPEND ON THE CONTINUED SECURITY OF RTE 5 AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SELL TO THE GKR.

19. FIVE GENERATORS SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 10,500 KILOWATTS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH. IT WILL BE ABOUT TWO MONTHS BEFORE THEY ARE ASSEMBLED AND IN OPERATION TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PRESENT ELECTRICITY DEFICIT IN PHNOM PENH.

MILITARY

20. SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL GOVERNMENT FORCES EXPANDED THEIR DEFENSIVE LINE BELOW THE PREK THNOAT RIVER, THE SITE OF RECENT HEAVY FIGHTING, AND REGAINED ALL BUT A 2KM SECTION OF RTE 201 AGAINST NO OPPOSITION. THE SECOND AND THIRD DIVISIONS ARE ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN A DEFENSIVE LINE BETWEEN RTES 3 AND 2 SOUTHWEST OF TAKHMAU.

21. SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, THE FIRST DIVISION REGAINED CONTROL OF RTE 1 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND THE MEKONG RIVER PORT AT NEAK LUONG ON AUGUST 9 AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE. OFF-ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED WHILE DEFENSE POSITIONS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED TO INCREASE ROUTE SECURITY. THE ROAD HAD BEEN CLOSED SINCE EARLY SPRING.

22. IN THE NORTHWEST SECTOR OF THE CAPITAL REGION, SEVENTH DIVISION FORCES CONTINUED CLEARING OPERATIONS TO CONSOLIDATE DEFENSE POSITIONS. SWEEP OPERATIONS

WERE ALSO CONDUCTED IN THE WESTERN ENVIRONS WITH NO MAJOR ENEMY RESISTANCE. THESE OPERATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO CONTAIN SMALL-SCALE INSURGENT INITIATIVES NEAR POCHENTONG AIRFIELD AND TO SEARCH FOR REPORTED ENEMY SUPPLY CACHES.
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23. TO THE NORTHEAST INSURGENT FORCES FURTHER CONSOLIDATED THEIR CONTROL IN THE RTE 6-7 AREA WEST OF THE ISOLATED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHAM. FANK FORCES WITHDREW FROM THE OUTPOST AT PREY TOTUNG UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE ON AUGUST 11. ANOTHER POSITION AT SKOUN, ABOUT 20KMS TO THE WEST, FELL FOLLOWING GROUND ATTACKS. THE FATE OF SOME FOUR 105 HOWITZERS ABANDONED ALONG RTE 7 IS NOT KNOWN, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY ALLIED AIR STRIKES.

24. IN PHNOM PENH PROPER, CAMBODIAN NATIONAL POLICE UNCOVERED AMMUNITION CACHES CONTAINING SMALL ARMS, AND ROCKET, AND PLASTIQUE EXPLOSIVES. A NUMBER OF KHMER AND SINO-KHMER SUSPECTS WERE ALSO ARRESTED AND ARE BELIEVED TO BE PART OF AN ENEMY SAPPER-TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. ON AUGUST 7, ENEMY SAPPERS ATTACKED THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO STATION WEST OF POCHENTONG AIRFIELD CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. THE ATTACK CONFIRMS THE PRESENCE OF ENEMY SAPPER UNITS IN THE AREA AND FURTHER ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL ARE CONSIDERED LIKELY.

25. SEVERAL MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH DURING THE WEEK TRANSPORTING POL, MUNITIONS AND GENERAL SUPPLIES. RTES 4 AND 5 REMAIN OPEN TO BOTH COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN TRAFFIC.
SWANK

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